

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust for Wales)

GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 18th June 2012 at 7.30pm

Note that this was a meeting held jointly with the Radyr & Morganstown Community Council

Present: David Silver (Vice-Chairman), Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), David Cargill, Allan Cook, Wyn Phillips, Sue Thomas, Cllrs Mike Diment, Rod McKerlich, Sue McKerlich, Judith Marsh, Clive Morgan, Liz Nicholas, David Suthers, Chris St Leger, Cain Thomas, Clerk to the R&MCC Helena Fox and 45 members representing many R&M organisations.

Apologies: Cyril Williams (Chairman), Cllrs Tyrone Davies and Bethan Cartwright, Emma Clegg, Julie Davies, Peter Esswood, Colin Evans, Phil Kitcher, Bob & Mary Pearce.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 6th February 2012

Approved. There were no matters arising.

Report on the May Festival 2012

David Cargill reported that the Festival had gone really well - some said the best ever - but there were some surprises, mainly due to the weather. Most notably, the Crowning of the May Queen had had to be moved at the last moment from Windsor Gardens to the OCR and a temporary Maypole erected in the Garth Room; the first time in 25 years. As it was, everything worked fine, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there was great atmosphere. Perhaps that was an epitaph for the whole Festival. He was also glad to report that the Festival Charity, George Thomas Hospice Care, would be receiving a cheque for over £4000.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported in respect of the Festival that he had received £3933 for the Charity so far (including £97 from Jubilee events) and there was at least £200 yet to come, so he confirmed the figure reported by David Cargill. He also noted that the RMA will have generated an internal surplus of around £1000, in line with the current budget.

Feedback on the Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Mike Diment noted that he had taken Chairmanship of the R&M Jubilee Celebrations Committee almost exactly a year before. All did not go smoothly with the organisation at first due to difficulties with location and school holidays so that some of the original ideas (such as a children's concert on the Tuesday) could not go ahead. However, Helena Fox successfully applied for a Lottery Grant and this allowed a move to the Golf Club for the main event on the Monday with a professional stage and sound system, a full orchestra, and a magnificent backdrop for the fireworks. This went really well and the event was truly memorable. The following day everything was cleared from the Golf Club by 9;00am due to a large number of helpers and there was an excellent children's tea party in MVH. He thanked, in particular, Helena, Clare Barnett, David Cargill, Peter Esswood, Maggie Roberts, Cardiff West Rotary, the RPMG and Chris St Leger for all their assistance in making everything a success. His only regret was that the fireworks had frightened the horses on Ty Gwyn Farm.

David Cargill noted that the Golf Club had been very happy with the event and, partly as a result of the success, were determined to 'move closer to the R&M Community'.

Getting Involved

The Chairman introduced the topic by saying that the meeting had heard how people got involved to put on the Festival and Jubilee events. Things like that made for an active community. Events need volunteers and leaders as do all the many groups in R&M. A list of all the known R&M groups (gleaned from the R&M website) had been provided to all attendees of the meeting. Many of these groups find attracting new members is difficult and some, including the RMA, needed new members on the central Committee - ideally younger ones.

The Secretary summarised the background to the topic. He said that it had originated from the fact that no applications had originally been made for vacant posts in either the R&MCC or the RMA Executive. Although this had now been solved for the R&MCC, there were many possible reasons for the initial apparent lack of interest including not being aware of the vacancies, having no spare time, being afraid of 'being in the public eye', etc. He pointed out that the richness of the present organisational environment in R&M was a heritage of the leaders and inspirers reaching back over 100 years who had caused land to be acquired, buildings to be built and organisations to be established. Most of these still flourished, as evidenced by the list that had been supplied, but the age profile of those involved was clearly biased towards the older generation and the older parts of R&M. There was clearly a need to engage further with the next generation down, and also with the new R&M estates. Unless this was achieved in the relatively near future there was a real risk that many organisations would simply atrophy and die. All the existing organisations had been asked three questions in advance of the meeting, to do with age profile and acquiring new members, and answers had been consistent with the above concerns. As a result, and to provide a framework for discussing what to do about it, the meeting was asked to discuss the following topics in groups:

1. Communications within R&M. How it can be improved - notably getting into the new areas and to the attention of younger members of our community.
2. Inventing reasons why younger people (30-50?) should join existing organisations. Suggest just three specific actions.
3. Is age a barrier to younger people joining existing organisations? Could/should existing organisations set up a 'junior club'? Which of the present organisations are best suited to do this?
4. Are legal barriers (insurance cover, CRB checks etc) real? If so, what can be done to help?
5. Is the R&M Festival worthwhile? How can it be improved?

Feedback from the groups and the subsequent further discussion is at Appendix A to these minutes.

At the end of the session it was noted that Radyr Library was due to reopen on Saturday, 23rd June and any organisations that would like to showcase themselves at the opening event (or, indeed, at other times), should contact the Librarian, Caroline Noall.

Christmas Tree lighting Ceremony

The Chairman noted that this event was organised jointly by the R&MCC and the RMA and was growing bigger each year. The R&MCC paid for and erected the three trees in Windsor Gardens, the Granny Park in Morganstown and on the 'Community Plot' in the Sidings. The last location would soon be changing due to the plot being about to be developed for further housing. The RMA organised the event in Station Road, which would be held this year on a Friday due to popular request, and also paid for and erected the trees above the shops. The R&MCC had provided additional funds for the Christmas lighting in Station Road to be extended. The starting time for the ceremony was currently being discussed. The intention was to make it a bit earlier, to make it more suitable for younger children, but there was limit to how early it was possible to close Station Road.

The aim was to increase the number of stalls to make the ceremony even more of an event. He gave an open invitation to anyone to input ideas for improvement to either the RMA or the R&MCC, and for help with organising the event itself.

Any Other Business

(Secretary's Note. At this point in the meeting, Mr J Smith raised an issue concerning an individual, which was ruled inappropriate to the meeting. He was asked to leave.)

George Thomas Hospice Care Cllr Sue McKerlich expressed the thanks of GTHC to the RMA for the excellent amount raised during the recent Festival.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 3rd September at 7.30pm in the Old Church Rooms when the speaker will be Jill Jones of BBC Crimewatch.

Radyr & Morganstown Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

FEEDBACK FROM JOINT MEETING ON 18th JUNE 2012

1. **Communications within R&M. How it can be improved - notably getting into the new areas and to the attention of younger members of our community.**

The current provision of communications channels in R&M was thought to be good - Radyr Chain, posters in Station Road, Noticeboard in the OCR, website, Newsletters from the RMA and County Councillor, Diaries in the Radyr Chain and the website, Festival and (uniquely) Jubilee Programmes delivered to every house.

Suggested ways forward were:

1. Facebook, social networks, links to school websites - trying to link to parents and children
2. Directory to new residents, including clubs times and costs, distributed via library and estate agents. (It was noted that the RMA had established a 'Welcome Pack' which contained much of this information which was already distributed via the Neighbourhood Watch network to new residents when told about them.)
3. Use the Library as a hub.
4. Introduce and/or use more Noticeboards in other locations - Station, Bus Stops, Doctors' Surgery, Shops, etc. (See also below).

To focus on children and parents, the following was suggested:

At the Comprehensive School:

1. Focus on the 'role of the local community'.
2. Extend the current School newsletter to include non-school Community events.
3. Try to engage with youths to attend meetings - perhaps specifically set up to identify their needs.
4. Liaise with the Youth Service.

At the Primary Schools:

1. Use existing or erect new community noticeboards.
2. Work with the PTAs
3. Establish Community Projects.
4. Liaise with the Junior School Councils.
5. Link fundraising within the schools to the nominated charity - empathising the need to support the needs of others.

The following comment was received after the meeting:

- A Council (not in R&M) was approached and decided to invite two youths from the community to the monthly meetings four times a year.
- The youths in the community selected those to attend.
- The representatives were invited to address the Council, following apologies for absence.
- They could then leave after answering any questions or stay if they wished.
- Their thoughts and comments were minuted.

When a project was being undertaken the youths attended relevant meetings and also received copies of every Council meeting

The system had a slightly hesitant start until the youths recognised they were being listened to. As a result several projects were initiated, the most popular being the 'bus-stop' project which entailed the construction of a 'bus-stop' type of building where the youths met rather than the actual bus-stops. A press/stop light was included which went off after 20 minutes.

One really surprising fact that emerged was that some youths found adults intimidating rather than the other way round.

2. Inventing reasons why younger people (30-50?) should join existing organisations. Suggest just three specific actions.

1. Use the schools as a central point for communications. Adopt a personal approach to identify skills which could be used in existing organisations.
2. Ask 'leaders' to co-opt others to join organisations.
3. Use the Library at regular intervals to promote their organisations by contact/leaflets/discussion.
4. Ask the Community what skills they have to assist an organisation 'have you an hour to spare?'. Skills suggested were painting, carpentry, management, organisation, gardening, IT, sports, press mailing, cake making, child minding, story telling, litter picking, etc. There could be a file in the library.
5. Note that people probably do not know what the R&MCC and RMA do. Embark on a marketing plan to explain - perhaps even have a job description.

The following comment was received after the meeting:

If every individual now involved in a 'working group' for an R&M activity was to set themselves the target of bringing in one additional person under the age of 50, we would double the involvement and provide for a succession.

It was clear from conversations during the evening, and elsewhere, that while most people are unwilling to put themselves forward for joining an established group, there are quite a few that would accept if invited. Established groups that are working well need to be pro-active if they want to extend their membership, because they are all too easily seen by people outside the group as closed networks - however strongly they may say the opposite. The personal approach is the only way to bring in new members.

A "one-buddy policy" as a target for everyone is suggested.

3. Is age a barrier to younger people joining existing organisations? Could/should existing organisations set up a 'junior club'? Which of the present organisations are best suited to do this?

Group 1

Prime thought - age is not so much a barrier to getting involved as having the time to do it. As an example considered the two WI organisations. The original is perceived as an 'older organisation'. The new, Treforgan WI, changed to afternoon meetings and attracted new membership. A new WI in Rhiwbina attracted new members 30+ with a new organisation, walking and book groups. Parents were approached to participate.

Other thoughts:

1. There are existing models of success, e.g. Radyr Woods, City of Cardiff Melingriffith Brass Band, and Junior Twinning (now not so good). Build on them.
2. Work through the schools, notably the Comprehensive - youngsters used to committees. Involvement looks good on UCAS forms and also require for the Welsh Bacculaureate.
3. Get whole families involved.
4. Junior sections could be formed for the Webteam, Drama & Music Groups, Radyr Chain (junior reporter, media studies, youth supplement), Good Neighbours, Dan-y-Bryn and Radyr Woods.
5. Examples of youths being involved above already exist - witness the Jubilee Concert and the City of Cardiff Melingriffith Brass Band.
6. Establish junior environmental groups. Bird and bat boxes etc.
7. Emphasise the value to youngsters in improving their social skills.

Closing thought - communicating outwards is fine, but are we actually engaging with the Community? Do people (notably in the new estates) really know what goes on?

Group 2

Activity Groups

The group noted that there were 3 types of activity group;

- a) sports - these generally don't have a problem attracting a younger dynamic and children - young adults are invariably keen to become involved in new sports and find a sport that they really enjoy.
- b) Groups associated with the older dynamic - such as Bowls, Bridge etc etc. These groups by virtue of their nature attract an older dynamic and are not perceived as being appealing to the younger generation.
- c) Groups that appeal to a broader section of the community and are not necessary age applicable.

We focused on item 'C'.... the group agreed that clubs / organisations that have a 'family appeal' i.e. can involve parents, youngsters and all sections of the community were excellent. The twinning fellowship had benefited immensely from this in the past. Radyr Woods had benefited from the Scout group with the Scout leader encouraging scouts to become involved with helping in the woods with the wardens. It was noted that the Brass band society was very popular and a real shame it has since moved to Tongwynlais.

There could be a purge on one particular group whereby this group is the main focus for a period of time, gets maximum exposure, has taster sessions, exhibitions (on Station Road) generally 'spotlighting' that group to encourage participation.

Radyr Comp

It was felt that there is not enough community engagement between Radyr Comp and R&M. There was a strong feeling that Radyr Comp should do more to support the community and better engagement would naturally create an interest with younger people and the community. The headmaster is relatively 'new in post' and it was felt he (Mr Williams?) would be much more keen to engage and with R&M. It was not known if any discussions had taken place since Mr Williams' appointment.

Communication

The group acknowledged that there are many mediums used to communicate with the community. However it was noted that the strategy should be more than communicate - the approach should be *Communicate - Engage - Develop*. Based on the percentage of the community that actively

participate with associations and groups that more should be done to engage and develop wider community relationships. This is fundamental to all aspects of community involvement.

Various questions were debated; these did not necessarily generate clear cut answers but are worth considering by RMA & RMCC;

- *The term “new estates” is often used, some of these (Radyr Gardens, Parc Radyr) have been around for 10 years plus, it was felt the term ‘new estates creates a feeling of “them and us”*
- *Do we fully understand the demographic of the modern families, working couples, the time constraints, hectic lifestyles of modern society, the insular approach adopted by many?*
- *Society is becoming older, we are an aging population, living longer with many more people being much healthier in their older days than in years gone by.*
- *People must feel part of the community before they are willing to actively participate in the community. The benefits of community involvement - the esprit de corps should be championed.*
- *There should be a process whereby a welcome pack lands on the door mat of ever new member of the community, this pack would explain all that is on offer in R&M. This could be arranged/facilitated via the major estate agents that operate in our area.*
- *Could there be a significant marketing campaign to ‘sell’ RMA / RMCC & all community activities to the wider community (sections that are perceived not to currently actively participate) along the lines of ‘60mins investment a month in your community’ or ‘help us to help you and your family’*

4. Are legal barriers (insurance cover, CRB checks etc) real? If so, what can be done to help?

Prime thought - CRB/insurance etc may not be so much a barrier to getting involved as having the time to do it.

Other thoughts:

1. All organisations should have public liability insurance. Do they have this?
2. Could there be a blanket policy? Worth investigating. Could smaller organisations become a subgroup of a larger one for this purpose?
3. CRB regulations are being revised. The process will be streamlined. Good advice from a defined central resource would be useful.
4. Health & Safety legislation is basically sensible but is over-hyped in the press. Again, a source of legal advice on a retained basis would be helpful.
5. Note that many organisations are part of bigger organisations (e.g. scouts) and may be able to get access to appropriate cover at a reasonable price or simply advice.

5. Is the R&M Festival worthwhile? How can it be improved?

Prime thought - people would rather join a gym than be involved in community activities!

Points raised:

1. The Festival is good. It could have a wider sweep of events, notably more for younger people.

2. More should be done to involve the residents on the new estates, perhaps by placing more events in the outlying locations.
3. The Festival could be divided into two separate weeks.
4. What happened to the float parade? Although the Carnival procession is a good idea.
5. Get the Comprehensive School more involved.
6. Place Noticeboards in the new estates so people know what is happening.
7. Improve communications on need for new people to join (e.g.) Festival Committee.

Closing thought - stress the positive side of being involved - friendship, feel good factor, better CV, etc.